

# 1999 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program

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## Questions and Answers on the STAR Augmentation

### **What was the STAR augmentation for 1999?**

The STAR augmentation refers to the addition of test items to the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. This created a new test that more closely addresses the content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). Student answers to these additional items were combined with their answers to a selection of questions from the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T (Stanford 9). These combined scores will reflect California's content standards. The STAR augmentation items were administered along with the Stanford 9 for the first time in 1999. The augmentation added items in English/language arts and mathematics for all grades tested (2 through 11) in the STAR program.

### **How do the STAR augmentation tests relate to state content standards?**

The augmented items in English/language arts and mathematics were developed to improve the alignment of the STAR program to state content standards in English/language arts and mathematics. In spring 2000 additional items in science and social science for grades 9 through 11 are to be added to address content standards adopted by the SBE in those areas.

### **Is there a document that compares the Stanford 9 and STAR augmentation to state standards?**

Yes. "The Stanford 9 with Augmentation Blueprints for Language Arts and Mathematics" is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca/star/star.html> on the Internet under the heading STAR Test Blueprints for Standards Based Items.

### **What kinds of test items were on the 1999 STAR augmentation?**

All of the test questions were in a multiple-choice format. These questions required students to select the correct answer from four possible answers. Questions for the 1999 STAR augmentation were field tested on students throughout California.

Sample test items for the STAR augmentation are available at the Internet address given above. Sample items for the Stanford 9 and SAGE/2 also are available.

### **How did the questions for the STAR augmentation relate to a student's grade level?**

In grades 2 through 7 and in grade 11, the questions for the STAR augmentation in English/language arts and mathematics were tied to state content standards at each grade level. In grades 8 through 10, augmentation questions for English/language arts also were tied to specific grade level standards. The augmentation questions for mathematics in grades 8 through 10 were not tied to a specific grade level but to the math course in which a student was enrolled.

### **What are the math courses for which there is a STAR augmentation?**

There were six test options for the 1999 STAR augmentation in mathematics: algebra I, geometry, algebra II, 1st-year integrated math, 2nd-year integrated math, and 3rd-year integrated math.

### **What if a student in grade 8, 9, or 10 was not enrolled in one of the specified courses?**

Students in grade 8, 9, or 10 who were not enrolled in one of the specified courses did not take the STAR augmentation in mathematics. Those students only took the mathematics portion of the Stanford 9. They will receive scores for that part of the STAR program.

### **What math content was assessed on the grade 11 STAR augmentation test?**

The grade 11 STAR augmentation test was taken by all students in grade 11 regardless of math course enrollment. This test covered topics from algebra I, geometry, algebra II, and probability and statistics.

### **Could students use calculators for the STAR augmentation in mathematics?**

Students could not use calculators for any math test that was part of the STAR program. The exception was special education students whose Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) specified the use of a calculator. The use of a calculator in these cases was noted as an accommodation on the student answer document.

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### **How much time did the augmented tests for English/language arts and mathematics take?**

The testing time for the English/language arts and mathematics augmentations at grades 2 through 7 was 65 minutes per section for a total of 130 minutes. At grades 8 through 11, the testing time was 75 minutes per section for a total of 150 minutes. Each section had to be administered in one session.

### **How will STAR augmentation results be reported for individual students?**

This year the scores for the STAR augmentation will be reported as the number of questions the student answered correctly. There are no comparisons to other students.

Every student in grades 2 through 11 will receive a score for reading, writing, total English/language arts, and foundation skills for the Stanford 9 mathematics questions selected for the STAR augmentation. Each student in grades 2 through 7 and 11 and each student in grades 8 through 10 who is enrolled in a mathematics course for which there is a test will also receive a score, the standards score, on the 35 additional test questions added in the STAR augmentation. Students in grades 8 through 10 who took an augmented mathematics test designated for their grade level will also receive a total mathematics score. Attached charts show the individual types of scores that students will receive.

In future years, these scores will be reported in terms of the SBE-adopted performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic.

### **If a student in grade 8, 9, or 10 was enrolled in a math class either more or less advanced than his or her grade level, how will the scores for the augmentation be reported?**

Students in grade 8, 9, or 10, who took an augmented test above or below the designated grade-level test will receive separate scores for math foundation skills, which are the questions selected from the Stanford 9, and for math standards, which are the questions on the math augmentation. If students did not take the Stanford 9 and the math augmentation for their grade level, no total math standards scores were produced or will be reported.

### **How will these performance levels be set?**

Initial performance levels for the student scores on the standards-based items from the Stanford 9 and the STAR augmentation will be established by the Content Review Panels appointed by the SBE. Performance levels will only be set for English/language arts this summer. Performance levels in mathematics will be established in the summer of 2000.

### **What do the augmentation scores mean?**

Standards-based scores for the STAR augmentation measure how well students are performing relative to the newly-adopted state standards. These standards are extremely rigorous. This year's standards-based scores for English/language arts will be used to measure the progress students make in future years. Many schools are just beginning to implement the standards as instructional materials and teacher training becomes available.

### **Will there be content cluster scores for the augmented test items?**

At this time there is no plan to report content cluster scores for the augmented test items.

### **What STAR augmentation results will be on the Internet?**

The Internet reports will include results by grade level for schools, districts, counties, and the state. Results will be reported for the Stanford 9, the STAR augmentation, and the SABE/2. Stanford 9 and STAR augmentation results will be reported for seven groups:

- all students
- students who are limited English proficient
- students who are not limited English proficient
- males
- females
- students who are economically disadvantaged
- students who are not economically disadvantaged

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### What results from the STAR augmentation will be reported for these groups?

The group scores that are reported for the STAR augmentation are “raw scores”—the average number correct out of the total number of items possible. The total number of items is the sum of items created specifically for the augmentation plus selected items taken from the Stanford 9. For English/language arts, the totals consist of 35 augmentation items, plus 40 selected Stanford 9 items at grades two and three and 55 selected Stanford 9 items at grades four through eleven. For mathematics, 15 items from the Stanford 9 were identified as standards-based at grades two through seven and eleven. These 15 items were added to the 35 newly created standards-based items for a total of 50 items.

### What math augmentation results will be reported for groups of students in grades 8 through 10, who did not take both of the test components that contribute to the total score in their grade level?

No group math augmentation scores will be reported at grades 8 through 10 for students who were tested with an augmented test other than those tests designated for that grade level. However, for each grade level and augmented test, the number of students taking the test and the percent of enrollment are reported.

### Why won't the math augmentation scores for grades 8 through 10 include all students in those grades?

At grades 8 through 10, 15 items at each level were selected from the Stanford 9 to be combined with the augmented test items designated to be appropriate to that grade level. Thus, the total number of items possible on the mathematics test is 50—15 Stanford 9 items plus 35 augmentation items. These 50 items comprise the total mathematics score.

A student taking the algebra I STAR augmentation at grade 9, for example, would not take any Stanford 9 items identified as contributing to the total score, because the Stanford 9 items selected for use at grade 9 were chosen as foundation skills for geometry not for algebra. No total score can be calculated if the student did not take both of the grade 10 components that contribute to the total score. More detailed information on STAR augmentation group scores appears on the charts that follow.

**Note:** STAR augmentation questions and answers will be added as they are completed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca/star/star.html> on the Internet.

1999 STAR Tests: Group Scores by Grade										
Grade:	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Stanford 9	Reading									
	Mathematics									
	Written Expression (language)							Writing (language)		
	Spelling									
								Social Science		
								Science		
STAR Augmentation	English/Language Arts									
	Mathematics					(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
SABE/2	Reading									
	Mathematics									
	Language									
	Spelling									

(a) Algebra I or 1st-year integrated math

(b) Geometry or 2nd-year integrated math

(c) Algebra II or 3rd-year integrated math

(d) Cumulative Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

**1999 STAR Augmentation  
Scores for Individuals—English/Language Arts\***

- Scores are reported for the grade level of the test taken by each student.
- Most students will have taken the test appropriate for their grade level.
- Students with IEPs who tested out-of-level will receive scores for the grade level of the test they took. For example, if a seventh grade student took the grade 5 test, the total scores would show how many grade 5 reading, writing, and total language arts questions were answered correctly.

## 1999 STAR Augmentation Scores for Individuals—Mathematics\*

- Like English/language arts, the mathematics augmentation scores are reported for the grade level of the test taken for students who took the test for grades 2 through 7 and 11.
- Students in grades 8, 9, and 10 will receive a grade-level foundation skills score. At each grade level, the foundations skills score is the number correct out of the 15 Stanford 9 items selected for the STAR augmentation as foundation skills for:
  - Grade 8 Algebra I or 1st-year integrated Mathematics
  - Grade 9 Geometry or 2nd-year integrated Mathematics
  - Grade 10 Algebra II or 3rd-year integrated Mathematics
- Standards score for the augmented tests taken is for:
  - Algebra I 1st-year integrated Mathematics
  - Geometry 2nd-year integrated Mathematics
  - Algebra II 3rd-year integrated Mathematics
  - Blank if no augmented math test was taken
- Total scores are reported only for students who took both the Stanford 9 and one of the two math augmented tests designated for their grade level. If a student took an augmented math test designated for another grade, the total will be reported as “NA.” This will occur both for students tested above their grade level (i.e., eighth graders tested in geometry or 2nd-year integrated math) and students tested below their grade level (i.e., ninth graders tested in algebra I or 1st-year integrated math).

\* STAR augmentation scores are listed on reports of 1999 results under the heading "California Content Standards."

**Individual Scores Reported for STAR Augmented Tests\***  
(based on level of test taken)

Test/Grade Level	English/Language Arts			Mathematics		
	Reading	Writing	Total English/LA	Foundation Skills	Standards	Total Math
2	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	X	X	X	X	X	X
4	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	X	X	X	X	X	X
8	X	X	X	X	<b>For details see the table below.</b>	
9	X	X	X	X		
10	X	X	X	X		
11	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Individual Mathematics Augmentation Scores Reported for Grades 8, 9, and 10\***

Grade	Foundation Skills	Standards	Total
Grade 8			
Algebra I or 1st-year Integrated	X	X	X
Geometry or 2nd-year Integrated	X	X	—
Algebra II or 3rd-year Integrated	X	X	—
No math augmentation	X	—	—
Grade 9			
Algebra I or 1st-year Integrated	X	X	—
Geometry or 2nd-year Integrated	X	X	X
Algebra II or 3rd-year Integrated	X	X	—
No math augmentation	X	—	—
Grade 10			
Algebra I or 1st-year Integrated	X	X	—
Geometry or 2nd-year Integrated	X	X	—
Algebra II or 3rd-year Integrated	X	X	X
No math augmentation	X	—	—

\* STAR augmentation scores are listed on reports of 1999 results under the heading “California Content Standards.”